

Integrating Substance Use, Mental Health, and Primary Care Services In Our Communities

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As implementation of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) continues, the *Eleventh Annual Statewide Conference Integrating Substance Use, Mental Health, and Primary Care Services in Our Communities* focused on the importance of local and national innovative approaches to integrated care for mental health and substance use disorders in evolving primary care settings. Held at the Hilton Universal City on October 22-23, 2014, the packed conference accommodated almost 1000 attendees from California, seven other states and a few foreign countries. Attendees participated in plenary sessions and individual workshops. Conference participants had the opportunity to participate in both didactic and experiential workshop sessions that address the challenges of providing comprehensive and integrated treatment.

LACDMH Medical Director, Rod Shaner, M.D., welcomed the attendees on the first day. Marvin Southard, D.S.W., LACDMH Director, introduced plenary speakers Captain Jon Perez, Ph.D., SAMHSA, who talked about the national perspective and LA District Attorney, Jackie Lacey, JD., who talked about alternatives to incarceration for persons with symptoms of mental illness.

Co-sponsors included: the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health (LACDMH), UCLA Integrated Substance Abuse Programs, The Pacific Southwest Addiction Technology Transfer Center, California Institute for Behavioral Health Solutions, California Primary Care Association (CPCA), the California Mental Health Services Authority (Cal MHSA) and the Integrated Care Conference Planning Committee.



Those suffering from dual disorders are among the most disadvantaged and disempowered, with complicated needs that traditional ways of siloed treatment could not address. Since the first conference eleven years ago, a committed collection of individuals have planned and produced eleven successful conferences dedicated to the delivery of comprehensive and integrated care for those suffering from co-morbid health and mental health conditions, seeking to merge science and service, and highlight best practices for delivering competent, sensitive, evidence based care for these high-need consumers. Focus has been on the transformation of systems to improve client care, highlighting the collaboration among our diverse systems, including mental health, alcohol and drug treatment, primary care/health, criminal justice, education, and child welfare.

Conference objectives included:

- Identification of local service agencies and networks working toward improving healthcare integration and collaboration across addiction treatment, mental health and primary care services.
- Identification best practices for treating complex needs of those with comorbidities.
- Identification of characteristics of services and providers that best support health, wellness and recovery.

The 2014 Statewide Conference was, again, a 'green event.' All planning and execution efforts were done with mindfulness toward our environment and resource sustainability. Conference planning, marketing, publicity, invitations and registration were created with this standard at the forefront. Attendees and Speakers were strongly encouraged to utilize electronic media for viewing hand-outs and materials.